95. The stent of claim **94**, wherein said oval shape of the struts is formed by electro-machining.

96. The stent of claim **93**, wherein said struts have a serpentine configuration.

97. A stent for deployment in a patient's vessel, tract or duct to maintain an open lumen therein, comprising an open-ended elongate tube having a generally circumferential wall, a multiplicity of interconnected curvilinear struts formed in the wall of said tube and thereby defining a multiplicity of through-holes in said wall; each of said struts having an oval cross-section with a long diameter generally aligned with the length or circumference of said wall and a short diameter generally aligned with the thickness of said wall, whereby to enhance the longitudinal flexibility of the stent, ease advancement of the stent through a lumen of the vessel, tract or duct for deployment at a target site therein, protect the balloon of a balloon catheter when the stent is tightly crimped thereon for advancement or expanded therefrom by inflation of the balloon, and enhance expansion of the stent during deployment while maintaining its capability to withstand compression in response to recoil of the wall of the vessel, tract or duct following deployment of the stent as a scaffold in support thereof.

98. The stent of claim **97**, wherein said struts are formed by laser cutting of said through-holes from the wall of said tube.

99. The stent of claim **98**, wherein said oval cross-section of the struts is formed by electro-machining said tube following said laser cutting of the through-holes.

100. The stent of claim **97**, wherein said struts are serpentine. --

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to cite its parent applications, viz., original Ser. No. 08/599,880 ("the '880 application") and subsequent continuation Ser. No. 09/186,573 ("the '573 application"), and to claim the priority date of the '880 application. Other amendments to the specification substantially mirror those made in the '880 and '573 applications, with attention to avoiding addition of new matter.

Claims 1-60 as originally appended to the '880 application have been canceled from the present continuation application, claims 61-76 were canceled and claims 77-92 were allowed in the '573 application and, thus, are not present here, and new claims 93-100 have been added.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, together with copies of the patents cited therein which may be material to the patentability of the invention claimed herein. Referring to these patents:

Alfidi et al U.S. Patent No. (USPN) 3,868,956 discloses a heat-expansible appliance in the form of an internally stressed coil of wire for implantation in a body vessel, with cross-sections of the wire including an elliptical configuration.

Fontaine USPN 5,370,683 discloses a vascular single filament wire stent of low memory